

U 228

13 MAR 1943

Wayside

Misc.72/43

March, 2nd, 1943.

Two German Jewish Refugees reported to be missing from Wayside District.

Sir,

At 9.00 p.m., 27-2-43, one named Melanie Weisler, residing at 226 Kungping Road, came to the station and reported that her brother named:

Hermann Natovic, age 33, German Jewish Refugee, S/Merchant, residing at 169 Chusan Road,

was missing from home since 4.00 p.m., 27-2-43.

At 10.30 p.m., 27-2-43, one named Edwin Schlesinger, residing at 909/3 East Howard Road, reported that his brother-in-law named:

Erich Soidal, age 30, German Jewish Refugee, S/Merchant, residing 60/26 Ward Road,

was missing since 1.30 p.m., 27-2-43.

At 1.30 p.m., 28-2-43, one named Mrs. Levald, residing 150 Wayside Road, reported that her husband named:

Walter Levald, age 37, German Jewish Refugee, M/unemployed, residing above address,

was missing from home since 1.30 p.m., 27-2-43.

Enquiries by C.D.C.187 and the undersigned.

Preliminary enquiries revealed that Walter Levald was arrested by D.S. Krader at 11.00 p.m., 27-2-43 and charged at this station in connection with F.I.N.302/43 (W) and is now on a writ of detention. Message circulated cancelled.

Further enquiries revealed the following:

At about 3.00 p.m., 27-2-43, a male person, believed to be a Chinese, entered the "Elite Liqueurs" shop, owned by one S. Natovic, 169 Chusan Road, and asked the proprietor's son named Hermann Natovic the price of one bottle of "Cherry Brandi" and then enquiring about the price of one dozen bottles.

On agreeing to the price, the unknown person stated

that he would inform his master of the prices as he opening a new provision shop at the corner of Haining and North Szechuan Roads.

The unknown person then left the shop and after an elapse of about 15 minutes a telephone call was received by Hermann Natovic from the unknown person requesting that he should bring a sample to the shop to show to his master. On Hermann informing the unknown person that he would send his boy with the sample, the unknown person stated that he should better come himself as it would possibly be a large order.

Natovic then took three samples of liquor and left to the designated shop.

At about 3.20 p.m., 27-2-43, a further telephone call was received from the unknown person enquiring if Hermann had left with the samples. On being informed by a relative of his that he had already left, the unknown person replied "all right" and cut off.

At about 3.25 p.m., 27-2-43, Hermann returned to his shop and stated that due to the blocking of the streets he was unable to continue on his journey.

On being informed that the unknown person had telephoned enquiring if he had left, Hermann immediately hired a public ricksha and left again.

At about 4.00 p.m., 27-2-43, Helene Natovic received a telephone call from Hermann who after stating that he was telephoning from a shop near-by informed her that he was unable to locate the shop and informed her that should the unknown person call again to inform him that he was unable to locate the place and meet him the next day at his shop: "Elite".

Natovic then suddenly stated that the unknown person was standing next to him and then he cut the connection, and he was not heard of since.

Helene was instructed to search the belongings of Hermann in an endeavour if possible to find a clue which might lead to the cause of his disappearance.

the "Doretta restaurant", 185 Chnoufoong Road, he was approached by an acquaintance of his, who called himself Karl Lange, and after informing him that he was employed by the Japanese Gendarmes asked him to draw a plan for him of a radio transmitter about 30 watts in strength, which was required by them.

On meeting with a refusal, Lange then asked him to loan him a book in which were plans of short wave transmitting sets, resulting in his handing over to him a book entitled "Radio Amateur", which Lange took away with him and returned to Kahn in an hour.

The plan which was found in the drawer of Hermann when compared with a plan in the book was found to be identical.

On the full description of Lange being given by Kahn to the undersigned, C.P.C.187 and the undersigned proceeded to the Doretta restaurant and brought in for enquiries from therein the following persons:

1. Karl Effert, alias Karl Lange, German, age 28, S/unemployed engineer, residing 50/9 Ward Road,
2. Arthur S. Hintze, German, age 26, S/unemployed barber, residing 50/9 Ward Road,

questioned, the 1st named stated that he was employed by the Japanese Gendarmes and on their instructions he drew a plan of a radio transmitter which he handed over to them.

The plan was then returned to him with instructions to write on the envelope R.S.16085, place the letter at the Jenny Kitchen and then telephone Hermann Natovic to claim for same. The two above named persons refused to divulge the whereabouts of Natovic and Soidal.

Due to the fact that they claimed to be employees of the Japanese Gendarmes, they were not questioned any further. Officer in-charge was informed and on his instructions, D.S.I. Trinder informed the Japanese Gendarmes.

At 6.00 p.m., 28-5-43, Sergeant Ozaki and Interpreter Watanabe attached to the Japanese Gendarmes, Bridge House, North Seochuan Road, attended the station and were explained

After an elapse of a few minutes, she returned with an envelope on which was written in capital letters N.B. and the number 16085.

In the envelope was found a map which seemed to the undersigned to be a sketch of a transmitting set.

Questioned as to the origin of the envelope and plan, the following was ascertained.

In the a.m. on or about the 24-2-43, a telephone call was received by Hermann from a person who called himself Mr. Weinberg, and after stating that he was speaking on behalf of Mr. Farren, owner of a cabaret at 325 Great Western Road, instructed Hermann to go to the above cabaret and offer liquors.

On instructions of Hermann, Seidal, who is also reported missing and employed as a salesman by Hermann, immediately proceeded who on interviewing Farren was informed by the latter that he had at no time contemplated or instructed any person to telephone and order liquors.

On or about the 26-2-43, Malone was informed by Seidal to the effect that there was an envelope on which was written N.B.16085 which was lying in the shop would be claimed by somebody.

Next to the telephone in the shop was found written in the handwriting of Hermann 16085 and Jimmy Kitchen.

As the undersigned is not a radio expert, Mr. Joseph Hahn, radio engineer, operating the Area Radio Shop, 730 East Seward Road, was called to assist. He was shown the plan and on examining same he stated the following:

On or about the 22-2-43, whilst Hahn was sitting in

the case as described above.

At this instance Helene Natovic entered the detective office and recognized Mr. Watanabe as being the unknown person who came to purchase the liquor for his master.

On the instructions of the Officer in-charge, the plan, envelope and the radio book was handed over to Sergeant Ozaki together with the list and the named persons as he acknowledge that they were in the employ of the Gendarmerie as informers.

As Mr. Braun visited his book returned, Sergeant Ozaki was informed to this effect by the Officer in-charge and promised to return same the next day, which was done as promised.

At 10.30 a.m., 28-3-43, a telephone message was received by P.S.I. Tanaka from Sergeant Ozaki to the effect that if the relatives of Hermann Natovic had received a note of paper in which was written in English "We are safe".

P.S.I. Tanaka and the undersigned proceeded to the Elite Liquors Shop, 169 Chusan Road, and on enquiries made ascertained that no such letter was received, but they stated that at about 6.15 p.m., 28-3-43 a telephone call was received from Hermann Natovic to the effect that he was well and requested that food and clothing be sent to him. He further stated that he would be released the next day, i.e., the 1-3-43.

At about 6.30 p.m., 28-3-43, Hermann's sister named Melanie Woister attended the Bridge House and handed over

U. M.
to Hermann personally the property requested.

It is to be also mentioned that whilst Sergeant Ozaki was at the station, he mentioned through the medium of the Officer in-charge that both the persons at present detained for questioning would soon be allowed to go.

On instructions from Headquarters, this report is forwarded for information.


H. K. Memon.

5/11/38 5/11/38
Senior Detective I/c.